

LS-HK-417

DIA review completed.

SECRET

January 14, 1972

TO: U.S. MILITARY ATTACHE PARIS
FROM: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM
DELIVER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS

TO:

25X1

MORI/CDF per C05105933

FROM: AL HAIG

AL

At your earliest convenient opportunity, please convey the following oral message:

State Dept. review completed

General Haig has reported fully to President Nixon and Dr. Kissinger on his recent visit to the People's Republic of China.

The President is very pleased with the developing arrangements for his visit. He believes that these most recent discussions demonstrated, as did the July and October trips of Dr. Kissinger, that both sides are making every effort to ensure the success of the upcoming meetings.

On behalf of his colleagues, General Haig would like to thank Prime Minister Chou En-lai and all the other Chinese officials who treated the American party with such courtesy, warm hospitality, and efficiency. The party will long remember the professional approach in the discussions, the warmth of their hosts, and the beauties of the country.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

SECRET

TOP SECRET

- 2 -

During the recent advance trip the U.S. side agreed to provide certain additional information to the Chinese side. Following is information concerning:

-- The intrusion of a pilotless reconnaissance plane into PRC air space which was raised in a note given to General Haig during his visit.

-- A briefing on arrangements for the President's trip given by the Press Secretary on January 12, 1972.

The full transcript of the press briefing, answers to technical questions raised by the PRC concerning the forthcoming visit, and a listing of persons the U.S. side proposes participate in various meetings will be provided in the near future.

Airplane Intrusion: As concerns the memorandum which the Chinese side gave General Haig during the U.S. advance party's meetings in Peking January 3-10, 1972, concerning the intrusion of a pilotless reconnaissance plane into Chinese air space and its subsequent crashing in Kiangsi Province, a full investigation has been made as was agreed by the U.S. side.

The incident cited by the Chinese side involved a pilotless reconnaissance drone which was engaged in a reconnaissance mission in no way directed at or involving the People's Republic of China. The control system of the pilotless drone suffered a mechanical failure which resulted

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

- 3 -

in loss of control. The pilotless drone then pursued an erratic course and was assumed to have crashed southwest of Hainan Island near the point at which it was last observed. This pilotless drone very probably was the one to which the Chinese side referred in its memorandum.

The U.S. side wishes to again assure the Chinese side that every possible precaution is being taken to prevent such accidental intrusions in the future.

Press Briefing: At 4:00 p.m. on January 12, the President's Press Secretary announced the general press arrangements which were agreed for the President's visit to the People's Republic of China. It was specified that approximately 80 members of the United States press were to accompany the President and that communications facilities would be provided by the People's Republic of China.

The names of the members of the U.S. press were not announced. This will be done at a future date after further consultation with the Chinese side on the specific U.S. press representatives who will accompany the President.

The general types of activities and the points of interest to be visited by the President and Mrs. Nixon were enumerated, but details of the President's schedule and plans for travel in Chinese aircraft were not announced. These matters, as was agreed with the Chinese side during the visit of the U.S. advance party, will be announced later.

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

- 4 -

There was extensive questioning by members of third-country press. As was agreed between the Chinese side and the United States side during the visit to China of the U.S. advance party January 3-10, 1972, third-country press representatives in Washington were informed that any participation by the press of other countries and their use of facilities provided by the People's Republic of China during the U.S. President's visit to China must be arranged directly by them with the Government of the People's Republic of China. Third-country press representatives were advised that they must make application to the Government of the People's Republic of China. Such inquiries can be expected soon. The third-country press was advised that there would be no objection to their traveling with the President's party provided that they were given specific permission to participate by the People's Republic of China.

TOP SECRET